

Notable Dam Failures and Incidents In Washington State

Project Name	Location	Date of Failure	No. of Lives Lost	Nature of Failure and Damage
Masonry Dam (Boxley Burst)	Near North Bend	December 1918	0	Excessive seepage through glacial moraine abutment caused mud flow about 1 mi. from reservoir. Destroyed RR line and village of Eastwick.
Eastwick RR Fill Failure	Near North Bend	February 1932	7	Blockage of culvert by slide caused RR Fill to back up water and fail. Destroyed RR line and village of Eastwick.
Loup Loup Dam	Near Malott	April 1938	0	50 foot high hydraulic fill dam failed when emergency spillway was undercut during a flood. Destroyed 25 homes and left 75 people homeless. Destroyed 1/2 mile of state highway.
Lake Dawn Dam	Port Angeles	February, 1950	0	Heavy Rains caused overtopping and failure of earthen dam. 1 home destroyed, \$4000 damage
North Star Sand & Gravel Dams	Everett	December 1967	0	40 foot high dam washed out by overtopping due to lack of spillway. 25 foot high dam rebuilt, also failed, washed out GN railroad tracks, derailed passing train.
Pillar Rock Dam	Wahkiakum County	January 1970	0	Logging roadfill culvert blocked by debris, overtopped and failed, caused 25 foot high concrete gravity dam to fail. 3 homes and fish cannery destroyed.
Sid White Dam	Near Omak	May 1971	0	Earthen dam failed due to seepage through animal burrows. Caused second dam to fail and dumped debris into town of Riverside.
Horseshoe Lake Blowout	Chewelah	May 1974	0	Outlet tunnel through 50 foot high natural ridge collapsed causing ridge to fail. Drained 20 foot deep lake. Extensive flood damage and debris deposits on cropland in downstream valley.

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White River Incident	Near Auburn	July 1976	2	Surge in flow caused by increased discharge from Mud Mountain Dam and removal of flashboards at PP&L Diversion Dam. Killed 2 children playing in White River
Alexander Lake Dam	Near Bremerton	December 1982	0	Spillway undermined and failed during heavy rains. Caused damage at fish hatchery and homes in Gorst.
Upriver Dam	Spokane	May 1986	0	Hydropower facility failed by overtopping. Lightning struck system, turbines shut down. Water rose behind dam while trying to restart. Backup power systems failed, could not raise spillway gates in time. Caused \$11 million damage to facility.
Chinook Dam	Pacific County	November 1990	0	Heavy rains overtopped the embankment and undermined the spillway, leading to failure of dam. Approximately \$100,000 damage to facility.
Seminary Hill Reservoir City of Centralia	Centralia	October 1991	0	Failure along weak rock zone in hillside caused massive slide which breached reservoir. 3 million gallons of water drained from reservoir in 3 minutes. 2 homes destroyed, many homes damaged, \$3 million in damage.
Iowa Beef Processors Waste Pond Dam No. 1	Wallula near Richland	January 1993	0	Failure of 15-foot high embankment released 300 acre-feet of waste water. Failure attributed to high reservoir levels due to snowmelt, entering animal burrows near embankment crest, and eroding dam. Washed out Union Pacific RR tracks, derailed 5 locomotives. \$5 million in damage.